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# Project Update: Study of the Production and Utilization of Education Doctorates in California

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**Purpose** This study was undertaken as a response to Assembly Bill 1279 (Scott), Statutes of 1999. It called upon the California Postsecondary Education Commission to conduct a study to determine the current capacity for applied joint doctorates in California. In keeping with existing law, which calls for the Commission to provide independent policy analysis and advice to the Legislature and the Governor, the report will include options and recommendations as well.

AB 1279 called specifically for the Commission study to focus on whether California is meeting its present need for applied joint doctorates with its current joint doctoral programs. After consideration of the State's needs and consultation with the bill's author, the study focused on the supply and demand for the education doctorate as described below in the "Scope" section.

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**Methodology** Numerous methods were used to gather the quantitative and qualitative data and information required for the study:

- 1- Staff conducted a review of the available literature and reviewed education doctorate program enrollments and degree awards in California and the nation.
- 2- The following data sources were utilized for this study:
  - ◆ The California Postsecondary Education Commission database;
  - ◆ The Survey of Earned Doctorates, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture;
  - ◆ The California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS) administered by the California Department of Education;
  - ◆ California State Teacher Retirement System records;
  - ◆ J 90 reports submitted by school districts to the California Department of Education;
  - ◆ The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES);

- ♦ Data from the state departments of education in selected comparison states;
- ♦ Survey questionnaires completed by the following: K-12 superintendents, Community College presidents, superintendents, and chancellors, CSU Deans of Schools of Education, and Deans of the education units of colleges and universities that offer doctoral programs in education;
- ♦ Discussion sessions with school district governing board members, superintendents, and directors of human resources; and
- ♦ Interviews of principals in firms that recruit educational leaders.

The provisions of Assembly Bill 1279 required the Commission to consult with various representatives in developing the study. The Commission fulfilled this requirement by establishing an AB 1279 Advisory Committee to work with Commission staff and the consultant to critique the study prospectus and survey instruments and advise on the development of the work plan. A list of the Advisory Committee members is provided in the final section.

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**Scope** The bill specifically called for a study to focus on whether the State is meeting its needs for applied joint doctorates with its current applied joint doctoral programs. The study was, therefore, structured around the projection of the supply of persons holding doctorates in education and the demand for these persons by K-12 schools and community college districts. As such, the study required a validation or assessment of the extent of demand for applied doctoral education. It also incorporated an assessment of current production in California of doctoral degrees in education to determine if a gap exists between the supply and demand for doctoral degree holders in education.

In carrying out the intent of the legislation, the Commission staff, upon the advice of its advisory committee, determined that, while applied doctoral programs exist in areas other than education, the vast majority of applied doctoral programs are in the area of education. Further, education doctorates were the area of primary interest to the author of the legislation. This study focuses primarily on the need for persons with doctoral degrees in the K-12 education arena, but significant attention is also given to issues of production and utilization of doctorates in the administration of the California Community Colleges.

It was agreed that all resources for meeting California's needs for education doctoral degree professionals should be considered. Thus, no differentiation was made between the Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD.) and Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) (this is considered an "applied" doctorate) in assessing supply and demand. In addressing resources for production of doctorates, single campus doctorate programs as well as joint programs

were considered, since both types of programs produce doctoral degrees that supply the need for educational leaders in the state.

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**The role of the  
California  
Postsecondary  
Education  
Commission**

The Commission is charged with the planning and coordination of post-secondary education in the state, including the review and concurrence or non-concurrence on proposed new academic degree programs in public higher education. These responsibilities include the review of doctoral programs and the actual approval of joint doctoral programs between the California State University and independent institutions. To date, the Commission has concurred in or approved 19 doctoral programs.

In the past 13 years, the Commission has issued two reports on education doctoral programs in California. The first, *The Doctorate in Education, Issues of Supply and Demand in California* (87-11), was adopted in 1987 and examined the history and status of doctoral degrees and doctoral degree programs in education in relation to the potential supply of, and demand for, holders of these degrees in California. Two recommendations evolved from that study: (1) No new doctoral programs in educational administration should be established, and (2) An intersegmental committee should investigate the needs and propose possible structures, components, and modes of delivery for doctoral programs designed specifically for present and future administrators in California's Community Colleges. The second report issued by the Commission, *California's Joint Doctoral Programs* (92-2), was adopted in 1992 and updated in 1998. This document provided an overview of joint doctoral degree programs in general.

The following table of contents shows the organization of the report currently being developed by staff.

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## Members of the Advisory Committee for the Study of the Production and Utilization of Education Doctorates in California

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Assembly Bill 1279 (Scott) called for the Commission to form an advisory committee to assist in its study of the production and utilization of education doctorates in California. The following members agreed to represent their respective agencies or organizations.

The Committee held its first meeting on April 11, at which time the preliminary study design, potential survey instruments and work plan for the study were reviewed. The committee will meet again on September 12 for the purpose of reviewing the entire study, including conclusions, options and recommendations.

### University of California

Julius Zelmanowitz, Interim Vice Provost, Academic Initiatives, Office of the President  
M.R.C. Greenwood, Chancellor, University of California Santa Cruz  
Raymond Orbach, Chancellor, University of California Riverside

### California State University

David Spence, Executive Vice Chancellor, Chief Academic Officer, Office of the Chancellor  
Robert L. Caret, President, San Jose State University  
Paul Shaker, Dean, School of Education and Human Development, California State University Fresno

### California Community Colleges

Victoria Morrow, Vice Chancellor, Educational Services and Economic Development

### Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities

Jonathan Brown, President  
Ann Hart, Provost, Claremont Graduate University

### California School Boards Association

Lucy Okumu, Consultant, Policy Analysis and Research

### Association of California School Administrators

Rex Fortune, Superintendent, Center Unified School District

### California Business Roundtable

Bill Hauck, President

### Office of the Secretary of Education

Jenny Kao, Legislative Affairs

### California County Superintendents Educational Services Association

Glenn Thomas, Executive Director

### Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education

Betty Sundberg, Consultant

### Association of California Community College Administrators

Susan Bray, Director of Operations

### Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Larry Birch, Administrator of Professional Services Division

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